

B2  
In another, preferred embodiment, the fixed electrodes are combined to form pairs comprising a emitter electrode and a collector electrode. This embodiment has the advantage that crosstalk between the individual electrodes is largely prevented. In addition, erroneous measurements caused by any imbalance or by a change in the axial position of the counter wheel are minimized.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, with the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 5, after line 3, insert a new heading as follows:

B3  
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--

Page 7, Paragraph Beginning at Line 1

B4  
The fixed electrodes 3 are arranged along the circumference of the counter wheel 1, with an air gap which is at least approximately constant being present between the electrodes 3 and the counter wheel 1. The fixed electrodes 3 are preferably of identical design and preferably extend at least approximately over the entire width of the counter wheel 1. In this example, two respective fixed electrodes 3 are combined in pairs, with four pairs being formed. One electrode in a pair forms a emitter electrode 30, and the second electrode forms a receiver electrode 31. In this example, the emitter electrodes 30 are electrically connected to one another. The transmitter electrodes can also be driven individually, however. The receiver electrodes 31 are connected to the evaluation

By electronics 5 individually, and the emitter electrodes 30 are connected to the evaluation electronics 5 together.

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Page 7, Paragraph Beginning at Line 19,

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Each pair of fixed electrodes 3 forms a counterpart for a sector S, with the pair being of corresponding length. In this case, the pairs of fixed electrodes 3 are preferably arranged such that the four pairs are opposite four successive sectors. The four pairs are preferably arranged such that adjacent electrodes in two adjacent pairs are of the same type, that is to say that a emitter electrode in a first pair is arranged next to a emitter electrode in a second pair. This allows crosstalk to be reduced.

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Page 7, Paragraph Beginning at Line 37

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Be If a measurement electrode 12 is in the region of a fixed electrode pair 3, the emitter electrode 30 indicates charge to the collector electrode 30' via the measurement electrode 12. If there is no measurement electrode 12 directly opposite, then virtually no charge is indicated back to the collector electrode 30'. This makes it possible to allocate a binary value of 0 or 1 to each fixed electrode pair 3. Hence, the sequence shown in figure 3 permits all values between 0 and 9 to be detected in binary format.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1-10 as follows.